

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
CINCUSAREUR
HQ IV TRANS. BRIG., OBERURSEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0390

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, FR, UR
SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN TARIFFS: THE STORY BREAKS

REF: USBR 0335 (NOTAL) DTG 011647Z FEB 77

1. SUMMARY: A WEST BERLIN NEWSPAPER BROKE THE STORY
OF THE REICHSBAHN DEMAND FOR A TARIFF INCREASE FOR ALLIED
TRAINS ON FEBRUARY 3. ALLIED SPOKESMEN ARE CONTINUING
"NO COMMENT" STANCE, AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT YET
PICKED UP ON THE ARTICLE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSERVATIVE SPRINGER DAILY NEWSPAPER BERLINER
MORGENPOST ON FEBRUARY 3RD PUBLISHED A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE REICHSBAHN FARE INCREASE FOR ALLIED TRAINS.
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COMMENTS ON REICHSBAHN TARIFFS, WHICH WERE PART OF
SHORT ARTICLE ENTITLED "MOSCOW'S PROTESTS AGAINST
GENSCHER AND BUBACK," NOTED THE GDR DEMAND FOR DRASTIC
INCREASES IN RAILROAD TARIFFS FOR ALLIED TRAINS, AND
ADDED THAT UP UNTIL NOW THESE QUESTIONS HAD ALWAYS
BEEN HANDLED BY THE FOUR VICTORIOUS POWERS. QUOTING
SOURCES IN BONN, MORGENPOST REMARKED THAT WITH ITS

DEMANDS, THE GDR WANTED TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN COMPETENCE AND MAKE THE WESTERN ALLIES ITS "CONVERSATION PARTNERS." IT TERMED AN INCREASE OF 80 PFENNIGS PER AXLE AND KILOMETER BASED ON TARIFF INCREASES BY THE BUNDESBahn "UNTENABLE". MORGENPOST'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT MOSCOW WOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE GDR IS NOT COMPETENT ON THE MATTER OF REICHSBAHN TARIFFS.

3. SO FAR, OTHER LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT PICKED UP REICHSBAHN STORY, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT THEY WILL. ASSOCIATED PRESS QUERIED U.S. AND BRITISH SPOKESMEN ON FEBRUARY 3 IN SUCH DETAIL AS TO IMPLY CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUE. ALLIED SPOKESMEN ADHERED TO STANDARD POSITION THAT NO COMMENT WOULD BE MADE ON MATTERS BETWEEN THE WESTERN ALLIES AND THE SOVIET UNION, ALTHOUGH BRITISH SPOKESMAN IN BERLIN ADDED THAT TARIFF QUESTION WAS SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN REICHSBAHN AND BUNDESBahn, IN ESSENCE ADMITTING THAT PROBLEM EXISTS.

4. WE EXPECT MORE OF STORY WILL OUT BECAUSE SO MANY PARTIES ARE PRIVY TO IT. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT WANT ALLIES TO BE SOURCE, AND ARE THEREFORE STICKING TO STANDARD PRESS GUIDANCE. WE ASSUME ADDRESSEES DOING LIKEWISE.

5. USCIB CONCURS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TARIFFS, BERLIN RAILROAD ACCESS, NEWS LEAKS, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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